



Yellowstone National Park Bison Relocation Project

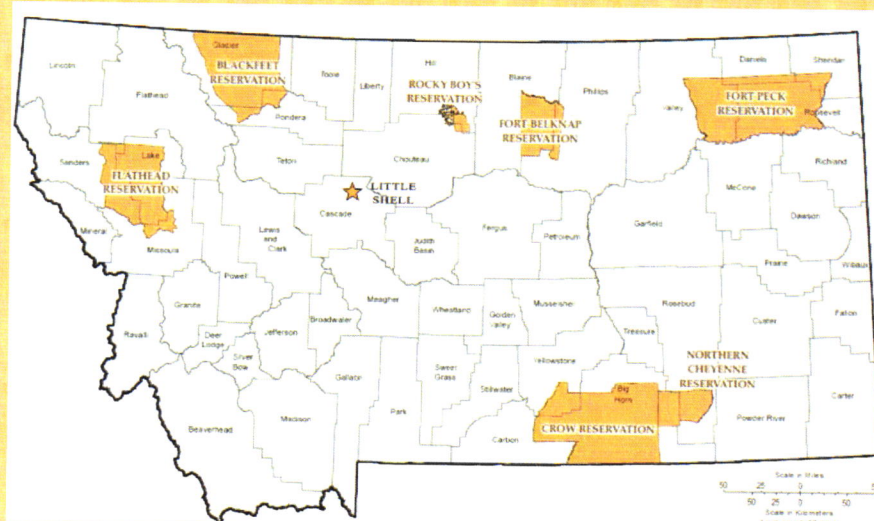
YNP Bison history

- Up to 50 million buffalo roamed North America
- By 1890 the buffalo population was reduced to less than 1,000 head
- Conservation efforts began during this time
- Remnant herd in Yellowstone reduced to 23 animals by 1902
- Army sent in to protect herd from poaching

Poached Bison Heads Confiscated by U.S. Army



Map of Montana Indian Reservations



YNP is the only place in lower 48 to have a continuously free ranging bison population since prehistoric times



Bison from private herds augmented the native herd



Bison in Yellowstone were intensively managed for decades



By 1968 intensive management ceased
natural ecological process began



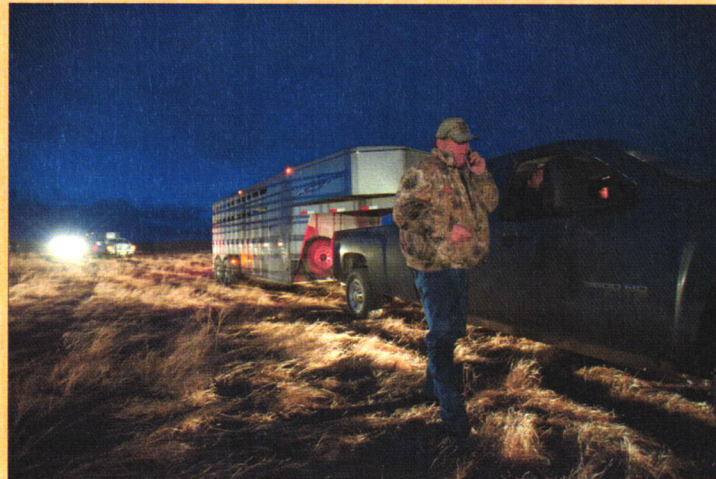
Buffalo and Brucellosis



The only known focus of *Brucella abortus* infection left in the nation is in bison and elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area

- Brucellosis causes abortions, infertility, and lowered milk production in cattle and is transmissible to humans as undulant fever

End of ranching era in YNP



Winter of 1996-97 1,200 buffalo slaughtered

- State of Montana DOL and MTFWP personnel killed the buffalo when they entered the state
- Tribal involvement began
- Fort Belknap and Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative develop quarantine proposal
- A number of state and federal agencies began to cooperate in bison management out of concern for transmitting brucellosis to cattle

Yellowstone Bison



1997 - 2006

- Bison continue to be slaughtered
- Interagency Bison management plan developed
- Bison Quarantine Feasibility Study begins
- 100 bison calves in first replication 2006
- 100 bison calves in second replication 2007
- Original study was to be 3 to 4 years
- Bison in quarantine for over 5 years

Yellowstone Bison



Draft EA for Interim Translocation of Bison

- MTFWP issues RFP to relocate bison from first replication 2009
- Fort Peck, Fort Belknap, Northern Arapaho Tribes apply to take bison
- Northern Arapaho Tribes awarded the YNP bison
- MTFWP moves 88 bison to Ted Turner ranch 2010

Yellowstone Bison



Bison Genetics

- Hybridization experiments conducted by some owners of the five foundation herds left a legacy of a small amount of cattle genetics in many existing bison herds
- Yellowstone, Henry Mountain in the U.S. and Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada are some of the few genetically pure bison left

Draft Environmental Assessment for Interim Translocation of Bison

- MTFWP issues RFP for second replication of buffalo 2011
- Fort Peck and Fort Belknap submit proposals
- State proposes two additional sites, Marias River Wildlife Management Area and Spotted Dog Wildlife Management Area
- MTFWP Commission awards buffalo to Fort Belknap and Fort Peck

Yellowstone Bison Return to Tribal Lands 2012



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Fort Belknap Tribal Buffalo Program Started in 1974



Fort Belknap Tribal Herd
450 Buffalo on 22,000 Acres

